



News Release

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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State Agencies Prepare Virginia's Capitol Square for Renovation ~ Trees, Shrubberies and Plantings Relocated to Parks and Cemeteries ~

RICHMOND, VA – A series of construction, renovation and restoration projects will soon be underway in Virginia's Capitol Square.

In an effort to adequately prepare Virginia's Capitol Square for a series of construction and renovation projects that include the Capitol, the Finance building and the Washington building, the Department of General Services is working with a variety of state agencies to transfer, relocate and dislodge trees, shrubberies and other plantings. This week and into the month of June, there will be several work crews in Capitol Square dislodging many of the trees and plantings on the south and east sides of the Capitol.

"In order to move forward with these [renovation] projects we have to remove some of the trees," said James T. Roberts, Director of the Department of General Services. "We have made arrangements to transfer some trees and shrubberies to other public properties to ensure they are used elsewhere."

The Virginia Department of Corrections is assisting the Department of General Services by removing, transferring and replanting many of the trees, shrubberies and other foliage. As a result, this process will be less costly. Approximately 375 trees are located in Capitol Square, but for construction preparations only 41 trees and approximately 75 shrubberies and plantings will be affected.

Arrangements for relocating the trees and shrubberies include replanting them in cemeteries and state parks. The Hanover Department of Parks and Recreation will use some of the azaleas in their municipal parks. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will replant a Dogwood tree in the Hampton Roads area in honor of a VDOT employee killed on the job. Other state agencies will replant some trees and shrubs on their properties. The Organ Donor Rock currently located near the fence at Tenth and Bank Streets will be relocated to the west side of the Capitol near the Bell Tower.

Most of the trees and shrubs affected are less than 15 years old, with nothing older than 70. The types of trees affected by construction include Dogwood, Plum, Cherry, Elm, Maple, Holly, Spruce, Black Pine, White Pine, Poplar, and Magnolia. Some groundcover foliage will be affected along with some Azaleas, Nandinas, Hydrangeas, Holly, and Laurel.

For more information about Capitol Square improvements and construction zones log on to www.dgs.state.va.us.

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